



KSC Countdown

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Atlantis undergoes weight measurement Wednesday



◆ Shuttle Update:

Final vehicle closeouts are under way in preparation for technicians to move **Atlantis** to the Vehicle Assembly Building

on Feb. 7. Technicians completed the flight deck closeout and are closing out the forward area. The final vehicle power down and main landing gear functional test were scheduled for Monday. Aft structural leak test preparations began Jan. 26, and the test will begin early this week. On Wednesday, technicians will perform the final weight and center-of-gravity measurements on the vehicle, and the orbiter transporter system will be brought into the bay on Thursday.

External tank ET-124, scheduled to fly with Atlantis, was moved from the checkout cell in the VAB for mating to the SRBs in high bay 1. Technicians have completed the final foam application and strut closeouts in preparation for attaching the orbiter on Feb. 7.

◆ **ELV Update:** At Launch Complex 17, the stacking of the Delta II launch vehicle is complete on Pad 17-B. Prelaunch checkout and testing is under way. Initial leak checks of the first-stage propellant systems were conducted Jan. 25. Technicians are now performing guidance and control system checks.

On Monday, a "LOX leak check" was performed by loading liquid oxygen aboard the first stage during a

simulated countdown. Today, a simulated flight test is being performed, activating the vehicle's post-liftoff flight systems without fuel aboard. The electrical and mechanical systems of the entire Delta II will be exercised during this test. Once the THEMIS payload is attached to the third stage of the launch vehicle, a final major test, the Flight Program Verification, will be conducted on Feb. 6. This is an integrated test of the Delta II and THEMIS working together. This test will simulate all events as they will occur on launch day, but without propellants aboard the launch vehicle.

■ **Building Evolution** — KSC is hosting a ceremony at 10:30 a.m. today to commemorate the transition of the historic Operations and Checkout Building high bay for use by the Constellation Program. Originally built to process space vehicles in the Apollo era, the building will serve as the final assembly facility for the Orion crew exploration vehicle. Design, development and construction of Orion's components will be performed by Lockheed Martin for NASA at facilities throughout the country. Representatives from NASA, Lockheed Martin, Space Florida and the state of Florida will participate in the ceremony.

■ **Annual BEST Dinner** — Tickets are now on sale for the BEST African-American History Month Dinner. This year's theme is "Experi-

THEMIS launch vehicle in simulated flight test today

ence the Arts! Exploring African-American Culture Through Music, Theatre & Arts." The dinner will be held at the Radisson Resort at the Port Pavilion in Cape Canaveral on Feb. 24. Social hour will be from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. and the program will start at 6:30. The attire is semi-formal and the ticket cost is \$30.

You can purchase tickets through Feb. 16 from the following people: *Maxine Daniels*, SSPF Rm. 3238, 867-5976; *Wanda Petty*, HQ Rm. 2114B, 867-8188; *Latasha Walker*, Logistics Bldg. Rm. 2710F2, 861-7439; *Willie Mae Moore*, OSB I Rm. 4401W2, 861-4862; *Debbie Houston*, O&C Rm. 2056, 867-6923; *Michun Williams*, Hangar I Annex Rm. 2106, 476-4016; *Valarie Franklin*, O&C Rm. 1020, 867-7051; *Truemilla Johnson*, HQ Rm. 2610P, 867-2307; *Linnette Daniels*, Hangar N Rm. 200, 853-9261; *Bruce Lockley*, Logistics Rm. 3836, 861-1333; *Sena Jones*, HQ Rm. 3257K, 867-3950.

■ **Did You Know?** Alligator Alert! — Due to the recent cold weather, alligators are spending more time on the river and lake banks sunning themselves. This poses a higher risk to individuals due to the animals being out of the water and closer to people who may be walking near the water, fishing from the banks, etc. Please be very cautious. If you encounter wildlife at KSC, call the Duty Office at 853-5211. Fish and Wildlife personnel will be contacted for relocation if necessary.

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